

State  
Columbia, SC  
Circ. 119127  
From Page:  
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8/6/2007  
67012



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## Seniors will get free ride in Five Points

The Capital Senior Center in Columbia's Five Points community is seeking volunteer drivers to help with a new transportation program for the elderly.

The program, 5 Points Wheels, will provide free rides in and around the Five Points community to seniors and adults with disabilities.

"This type of volunteer-based transportation program is an excellent example of

how a community can come together to help preserve the dignity and maximize independence of its older and disabled adults," said **Roger Cranford**, program coordinator.

The senior center has secured money for the program through an Elder Care Trust Grant from the lieutenant governor's Office on Aging and the state Department of Transportation. The money will be

applied toward 80 percent of the purchase price of a vehicle and program start-up costs. But about \$10,000 more is needed to purchase vans and other equipment.

Volunteer drivers have to meet specified requirements and undergo a background check. To volunteer or donate to the program, call Cranford at (803) 779-1971.